

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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R 251700Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5875
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 09813

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINS, CU, XA, SP
SUBJECT: CUBAN VIEWS ON AFRICA

1. CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA, WHO IS CURRENTLY
HEADING HIS GOVERNMENT'S DELEGATION AT THE CONFERENCE
ON RACISM, PASSED THROUGH MADRID AUGUST 22, ACCOMPANYING
HIS WIFE TO BARCELONA WHERE SHE IS TO RECEIVE TREATMENT
AT AN EYE CLINIC. ON THAT DAY HE WAS GIVEN A LUNCHEON
BY SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA WHICH WAS BILLED IN
THE LOCAL PRESS AS A TWO AND A HALF HOUR MEETING.

2. POLITICAL COUNSELOR AUGUST 25 RAISED MALMIERCA VISIT
WITH SALVADOR BERMUDEZ DE CASTRO, DIRECTOR GENERAL
(EQUIVALENT TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY) OF THE SPANISH FOREIGN
MINISTRY FOR LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS. BERMUDEZ, WHO WAS
AT THE LUNCHEON, SAID THAT THE CONVERSATION WITH MALMIERCA
COVERED TWO SUBJECTS: ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRIME MINISTER
SUAREZ' FORTHCOMING TRIP TO HAVANA SEPT. 9 AND 10 AND THE
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CURRENT SITUATION IN AFRICA. NOTHING STARTLING CAME OUT
OF THE CONVERSATION, BERMUDEZ SAID, AND MALMIERCA
ESSENTIALLY REPEATED WHAT HE HAD TOLD THE SPANISH DURING
HIS APRIL 5 VISIT TO MADRID (MADRID 3844). IT WAS
RATHER ODD, BERMUDEZ COMMENTED, THAT IN A LONG LUNCHEON
WITH THE CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER THE SUBJECT OF LATIN
AMERICA NEVER CAME UP IN THE CONVERSATION.

3. MALMIERCA SAID, ACCORDING TO BERMUDEZ, THAT THE ONLY POSSIBLE SOLUTION IN ERITREA WAS A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE ETHIOPIANS AND THE ERITREANS. IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR ADDIS ABABA TO SUBDUCE THE GUERRILLAS BY FORCE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GUERRILLAS NOW REALIZED--AS THEY DID NOT BEFORE RECENT MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS--THAT THERE IS NO HOPE OF ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE OR UNITING WITH SOMALIA. THE OUTLINE OF AN ERITREAN SOLUTION, AS EXPLAINED BY MALMIERCA, WAS SOME SORT OF AUTONOMOUS OR SEMI-AUTONOMOUS REGION WITHIN ETHIOPIA WHICH GUARANTEED THE GOE ACCESS TO THE SEA.

4. ON ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE MALMIERCA SAID THAT THE MAIN PROBLEM WAS THE LACK OF TRAINED PERSONNEL. WHILE THERE WERE SEVERAL PEOPLE OF HIGH CALIBER IN BOTH GOVERNMENTS GENERAL TECHNICAL EXPERTISE WAS COMPLETELY LACKING. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SAY SO SPECIFICALLY, MALMIERCA CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT A CUBAN PRESENCE IN BOTH COUNTRIES WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

5. MALMIERCA EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT RECENT NEW DEPLOYMENTS OF SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES TO DEAL WITH NAMIBIA. HE ALSO STATED THAT BLACK LEADERS IN RHODESIA WHO ARE COOPERATING WITH THE IAN SMITH GOVERNMENT ARE LOSING POPULARITY WITHIN THAT COUNTRY. BERMUDEZ CHARACTERIZED
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THIS AS STANDARD CUBAN PITCH ON RHODESIA.

6. OREJA, DURING THE COURSE OF THE LUNCHEON, EXPLAINED THE GOS PERCEPTION OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH AFRICA AND MALMIERCA REFRAINED FROM COMMENTING ABOUT THIS AREA, BERMUDEZ SAID. GENERAL POSITION OF CUBANS IS FULL SUPPORT FOR POLISARIO, WHICH THE CUBANS REGARD AS A GENUINE LIBERATION MOVEMENT, BERMUDEZ SAID.

7. MALMIERCA TOLD OREJA THAT THERE WOULD BE INTENSE CUBAN DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY AMONG THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES IN PREPARATION FOR THE UPCOMING NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN HAVANA. CUBAN EMISSARIES WILL BE SENT TO EACH NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY, INCLUDING ARGENTINA, IN ORDER TO EXPLAIN CUBAN POLICIES TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP.

8. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR WILL BEHAVING LUNCH WITH FONMIN OREJA AUGUST 29 AND COULD FURTHER PURSUE SUBJECTS WHICH OREJA DISCUSSED WITH MALMIERCA. IF DEPARTMENT HAS SPECIFIC QUESTIONS FOR AMBASSADOR TO PUT TO OREJA WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THEM BY THAT DATE. TODMAN

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